

MINUTES OF THE CITY OF BURLINGTON
CITY COUNCIL COMMUNITY MEETING
September 9, 2010

The City Council of the City of Burlington held a Community Meeting at St. Matthews AME Church, 1136 Apple Street, Burlington, North Carolina, 27217, on September 9, 2010, at 7:00 p.m.

Mayor Ronnie K. Wall presided

Councilmembers Present: Mayor Wall, Councilmembers Huffman, Butler, Ross and Faucette

Councilmembers absent: None

Harold Owen, City Manager: Present

Citizens: 50

Mayor Wall welcomed approximately 50 citizens in attendance. He introduced members of the City Council in attendance: Mayor Pro Tem David Huffman, Councilman Jim Butler, Councilman Steve Ross and Councilman Celo Faucette. Mayor Wall also recognized City Manager Harold Owen. The Mayor welcomed citizens in attendance and asked that they speak on any issues that they wished to discuss.

Several citizens voiced concerns about safety issues in the community. Bars and/or convenient marts located on Ross Street and the corner of Chandler and Ross Streets were discussed in length. Citizens noted that loud, unruly activity often occurred in the parking lots at these locations late at night. It was also mentioned that many young people, school age, seemed to "hang out" at these sites during school hours. Neighbors of the Chandler and Ross Streets location indicated that they believed the operators of the business did not have control of what was happening in its parking lot. Councilmembers responded that additional police exposure might be needed along with the citizens possibly becoming involved with community policing.

Several other citizens voiced displeasure with the asphalt walking path the City constructed along Apple Street. It was the perception of some citizens that the asphalt path was not nearly as acceptable as a traditional sidewalk. Mayor Wall and City

Manager Owen responded that the asphalt walking path was installed as the result of a community meeting in 2008 when citizens voiced concerns about the safety of walkers along Apple Street. Citizens questioned why Apple Street was not widened along with curb and gutter. Councilmembers responded that Apple Street was a state road and NCDOT funding was not available for this type of construction project. Several citizens continued to be upset about Sharpe Road and urged Councilmembers to actively pursue federal funding for upgrades to the community. Several Councilmen noted that federal and state lobbying efforts might require non-City staff attention to be successful.

A number of citizens voiced concerns about the apparent lack of parenting in the community that was resulting in a number of issues for young people. Councilmembers encouraged citizens to get involved with Neighborhood Watch programs and become active with the Police Department's Community Policing Program.

A question was asked about the status of a transit system. Mayor Wall and Mayor Pro Tem Huffman responded about the City's effort to incorporate a park and ride system and encouraged citizens to contact County Commissioners about their opinion of this program. Citizens also noted a need to provide some form of transportation for medical appointments.

Mayor Wall and Councilmembers thanked the citizens for attending the meeting and expressing their concerns.

The meeting was adjourned.

Jondeen D. Terry
City Clerk